BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

A Froward woman takes delight,
to see her Husband vexed,
Both morning, evening, noon and night,
the poor man is perplexed,
Her brawls and sounds, she frowns and pouts
And to her speeches scoffs and flouts,
are ever more annexed.

Though he hath been at work all day,
as hard as he is able
Yet when he comes home without delay,
she bids him rock the Cradle,
And if he doth the same refuse,
The durty Queam will him abuse,
and beat him with the Ladle.

He cannot quietly rest in bed,
but every little season,
The Childe doth cry and must be fed,
and then she saith 'tis reason,
That he should do't, and let her sleep,
The poor man he must silence keep,
for talking would be Treason.

Then certainly a Batchelors life,
is a most precious Treasure:
He that doth suddenly marry a wife,
will surely repent it at leisure:
For, when he hath been snub'd and curb'd
And almost all the night disturb'd,
yet must he rise at her pleasure.

Robin (quoth she) 'tis time to rise,
and thumps him on the shoulder,
The Hogs wants swilling in the Sties,
at length he speaketh bolder
Calling him Fool and Logger-head
And with her feet quite out of the bed,
she thrusts the poor house-holder,

And therefore he that weds a mate,
is like a horse in a Tether,
Marriage and hanging go by fate,
and therefore chuse you whether,
For the three destinies have spun
Knots for Hymen and for Dun,
then let them go together.

Man is a little world of himself,
and therefore wanteth nothing,
He needs not care for worldly pelf,
so he have food and cloathing,
And marriage is a fickle thing,
Which sometime doth in love begin,
and often ends in loathing.

And therefore I will Angle live,
in spight of lust and passion,
Pure Virgins gods examples give,
and worth our imitation
For before Matrimony arose,
The mode of wearing perfect hose,
and horns were out of fashion.

And lastly to conclude my song,
vain joy is but a Bubble,
A double heart, and a double tongue
hath fill'd the world with trouble:
And therefore to avoid all strife,
'Tis best to lead a single life,
we will have nothing double. Finis.

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